

House File 92 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 92

BY HANSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the investigation of complaints concerning
2 veterinarians.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 169.14, subsection 1, Code 2011, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. a. The board, upon its own motion or upon a verified
4 complaint in writing, may request the department of inspections
5 and appeals to conduct an investigation of the charges
6 contained in the complaint. The department of inspections and
7 appeals shall report its findings to the board, and the board
8 may issue an order fixing the time and place for hearing if a
9 hearing is deemed warranted. A written notice of the time and
10 place of the hearing, together with a statement of the charges,
11 shall be served upon the licensee at least ten days before the
12 hearing in the manner required for the service of notice of the
13 commencement of an ordinary action.

14 b. If the board receives a verified complaint in writing
15 and determines not to request an investigation, the board
16 shall promptly notify the person making such complaint of its
17 decision. The person making such complaint may petition the
18 board in writing to reconsider its decision within ten days of
19 receiving that notice. The board shall consider and respond to
20 a petition for reconsideration within twenty days. A decision
21 not to request an investigation following a petition for
22 reconsideration shall constitute final agency action.

23 EXPLANATION

24 This bill creates a review process when the board of
25 veterinary medicine decides not to investigate a veterinarian
26 after receiving a written complaint. Currently, animal
27 owners have no recourse with the board when it decides not
28 to investigate. Under this bill, aggrieved animal owners
29 may request reconsideration of the board's decision not to
30 investigate a veterinarian.